



Monthly Tidings

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH • TALLAHASSEE, FLA. • VOL. 7, No. 10 • NOVEMBER, 1980



Rev. David T. Scoates, Pastor of the First United Methodist Church of Gainesville, pictured with his wife Vonda Scoates, will serve as executive director of the 1980 Stewardship Campaign.

A Tradition of Christian Love . . .

Palmer Williams, has called this year's Stewardship Campaign a renewal and reaffirmation of Trinity's "tradition of Christian love."

"Trinity was the first Methodist Church in Florida, was the site of the founding of the Florida Methodist Conference and has always been a focal point of Methodism in the state," Williams said.

"As, such, we have a strong tradition of Christian love which has been carried out over the years by Trinity's members dedicating their time, talents and money to our programs."

"It is a tradition which must be constantly renewed, however, because the

Church is fundamentally a body of believers and workers. Without belief and works, the church ceases to exist and becomes only an empty hall."

"Helping Each Other—HEO, exemplifies this tradition and for this reason we have chosen it as the focus of our Second Mile Giving effort."

"Each of us make the commitment to support the Church when we join. The basic or "first mile" estimate of giving, while voluntary, is but a fulfillment of a pledge already made. The Second Mile is that signal that we each want to do more than is our basic responsibility and go forward to sacrifice our personal resources towards the benefit of our fellowman."

The receptionist is to take on additional secretarial duties and coordinate food service, building usage for weddings and activities other than church programs, and the Alter Guild and other volunteers. Twelve additional hours per week are to be assigned for those duties.

The Financial Secretary will devote full time to the financial records, including receipt of funds, bank deposits, tax reports, payroll, pledge recordkeeping, insurance, and payment of approved bills.

The maintenance—custodial supervisor will oversee all custodial and maintenance work and supervise workers performing those functions.

In a letter dated October 23, addressed to the Administrative Board, Lisa Miley, for many years a member of the Trinity staff, tendered her resignation from employment. The Board accepted her resignation with regret.

Admin. Board Reorganizes Church Staff

The Administrative Board met in a special meeting October 27 and approved a reorganization of the church staff. The resignation of Lisa Miley was also accepted.

The reorganization came as a result of an extensive study and recommendation by the Pastor Parish Relations Committee, which is assigned by the Discipline the responsibility for making personnel review and recommendations to the Board for all non-clergy employees.

The reorganization added the duties of Office Supervisor to the position of Pastor's Secretary requiring the person in that position to supervise membership records, mailing, the calendar and purchase of supplies.

Stewardship Sunday Set November 16th

Trinity's 1980 Stewardship Campaign will climax November 16, designated by Campaign General Chairperson Palmer Williams as Stewardship Sunday.

After an intensive educational campaign concerning Trinity's programs and needs, each member will be asked on Stewardship Sunday to make an estimate of giving of both their monetary and service support of the church.

During the week prior to Stewardship Sunday, each member will be invited to a neighborhood social near their home during which "messengers" who have been briefed on the church's programs and needs will answer questions from the membership about the proposed budget.

All workers participating in the campaign will meet Sunday, November 9 at 6 p.m., for dinner and remarks by Rev. David T. Scoates, pastor of the First United Methodist Church of Gainesville and executive director of the campaign.

Of special interest this year is the "Second Mile Giving" campaign in which members will be asked to make a commitment to the church's Second Mile giving project for 1980—Helping Each Other (HEO).

"To Trinity with Love" will be the theme of the campaign, and will be emphasized throughout all meetings with workers and members.

The budget this year (see page 3)

will be a proposed budget and will not be presented to the Administrative Board for approval until after the campaign has been completed and all the estimates of giving have been received. In this way, decisions can be made about the mission of the church based upon the commitments of the members who must ultimately carry out the program.

The executive Committee guiding the campaign is:

Palmer Williams, General Chairperson, and assistants Ruth Bass and Bill Mattice;

Georgianna Wollschlager, Neighborhood Socials, and assistants, Bonnie Ekwall and Nancy Kerce;

Mel Pope, Advance Leadership, and assistant Bill McKemie;

Linda Yates, Publicity, and assistant Dean Bunch;

Alex Knight, Spiritual Support, and assistant Charlene Causseaux;

Gail Hock, Hospitality and assistant Mary Margaret Rogers;

Allison Mattice, Support Services, and assistants Melinda Coulter and Paula Smith;

Booker Moore, Telephone, and assistant Gordon Rogers;

Jervy Kelly, Messenger, and assistant Ben Warren;

Jane Love and Amos P. Godby, Follow-up; and

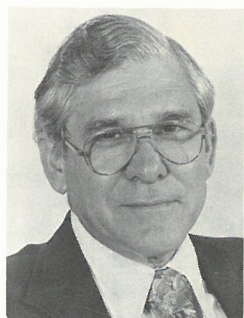
Grif and Clelia Pugh, Church Groups.

November Trinity Calendar

Saturday, 1st	2:00 P.M.—Florence Clemons Sunday Class (Parlor)
Sunday, 2nd	Communion Sunday Jr. Highs to Sing 2:00-4:00 P.M.—Open House at Plantation Road Parsonage 6:00 P.M.—Stewardship Dinner "The Why of Stewardship Estimate Commitments"
Monday, 3rd	6:45 A.M.—Men's Bible Study
Tuesday, 4th	10:00 A.M.—Women's Bible Study 10:30 A.M.—U.M.W. Board Meeting (Conference Room) 10:30 A.M.—U.M.W. Tat and Chat (Gregory Room) 12:00 Noon—U.M.W. Luncheon (Fellowship Hall) 10:30 A.M.—Bible Study (Conference Room)
Wednesday, 5th	7:30 P.M.—Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, 9th	Wesleyan Singers to sing
Monday, 10th	Neighborhood Socials to begin for Fall Stewardship Campaign 6:45 A.M.—Men's Bible Study 10:00 A.M.—Women's Bible Study
Wednesday, 12th	10:30 A.M.—Bible Study (Conference Room) 6:30 P.M.—Choir Supper 7:30 P.M.—Charge Conference (Gregory Room) 7:30 P.M.—Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, 16th	Carol Choir to Sing Stewardship Sunday 12:00 Noon—Stewardship Workers luncheon
Monday, 17th	6:45 A.M.—Men's Bible Study 10:00 A.M.—Women's Bible Study
Wednesday, 19th	10:30 A.M.—Bible Study (Conference Room) 7:30 P.M.—Choir Rehearsal
Friday, 21st	12:00 Noon—December Tidings Deadline
Sunday, 23rd	Sr. Highs to Sing Stewardship Celebration Sunday
Monday, 24th	6:45 A.M.—Men's Bible Study 10:00 A.M.—Women's Bible Study
Thursday, 27th	Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving
Friday, 28th	Church Office Closed
Sunday, 30th	Dr. James Laney, President of Emory guest speaker Children's Chapel Service for Advent begins for grades 2-4

COMMENT

By Gene Zimmerman



Sir Wilfred Grenfell, a missionary doctor to Labrador, often spent part of his time traveling among isolated settlements and homes bringing medical help. Whenever he did he would stay with people in the village. On one occasion he was in a Catholic community where for several days he looked after the folks. The day he was to depart his host was not with him to say good-bye, but the wife said he had to leave early on some business. Dr. Grenfell tells the story from here: "The next village on my winter's round was a Methodist one, and I knew that my host there had fallen on bad times so his cupboard was almost as bare as that of our childhood friend Mother Hubbard. It was with considerable surprise, therefore, that at my first meal in his cottage I found real sugar for tea and butter for the loaf. Then the secret came out. My Roman Catholic host had walked fifteen miles on snow shoes through the dawn of that freezing day carrying sugar and three tins of milk from his own meager supply in order that his Methodist friend may not be embarrassed at having nothing to offer." Perhaps if more people lived like this the world wouldn't have near the troubles it does.

Board Adopts Goals

At its October meeting the Administrative Board adopted seven broad goals for the church for 1981. These goals were submitted to the Board by the Council on Ministries. Recognizing that the purpose of our church is:

"the conduct of worship and the due administration of his Word and Sacraments, the maintenance of Christian fellowship and discipline, the edification of believers, and the conversion of the world,"

the following goals were approved and adopted.

1. To provide environments, programs and activities for nurturing the spiritual life and growth of the members of Trinity United Methodist Church consistent with the United Methodist Programs and Discipline.

2. To develop better programs of assimilating members into the activity and life of Trinity.

3. To provide increased opportunities for fellowship.

4. To enlarge the mission outreach of Trinity United Methodist Church.

5. To give every Trinity member the opportunity to participate in tithing, pledging and better stewardship.

6. To increase visibility of Trinity's mission and programs to the membership and to the Tallahassee community.

7. To maintain staffing and facilities which adequately support the Goals of Trinity United Methodist Church.

The next step in this process will be for the Council on Ministries to develop with church committees, work areas, groups and organizations the specific ways to meet these goals. For instance, under Goal Number 3, the work area on Family Life may plan for meals at the church on a regular basis.

If you have suggestions for implementation please give them to Kitty Ball, Griffith Pugh or Rev. Zimmerman.

Mustard Seeds

By Liz Smith

"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Psalms 118:23

Eating lunch with a friend can be a hurried time to share a hamburger and small talk, seasoned with gossip, or, as it was for me on a golden day a few weeks ago, it can be a special time when you leave with the feeling that your spirit has been nourished as much as your body.

This particular day we were sharing our thoughts about the tendency we have to "write off" today in anticipation of some special, better tomorrow; we often miss the importance and beauty of the "ordinary" days because we take them so much for granted. She cited a perfect example of this in the experience of a college friend who said he suddenly realized, while looking at the large wall calendar in his room, how his life was spent going from one special, circled day to another while each of the days in between was simply filled with a big X, their only significance being that they had to be gotten through in order to arrive at an important date. He was shocked to see how much of his life he had simply "marked off" as unimportant and resolved, then and there, to treat each day as a "circled day" to be lived to the hilt and appreciated in full.

"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

I am reminded of the Genesis story of creation and I am struck by the fact that as God moves through the making of his world, creating light to make day separate from night, setting the moon and stars to wheel across the heavens, ordering the sun to rule by day, forming the creatures of the sea and dry land and finally making man in his own image, he does not rush pell-mell through the process, interested only in the finished work. Rather, as he fashions each new part of his creation he takes time to look at it, to enjoy and appreciate it. Genesis records, on each of the six days: "And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, one day."

Each of us has work to complete, goals and ends toward which we strive. We want our children to grow up to be responsible, healthy, caring adults but how tragic if we fail to see the morning and evening of each precious day they are in our care, because we are focusing only on the finished product. We strive for success in our chosen careers so we can provide the "good life" for those we love, when often we deprive them of the most important thing they need and want: our daily participation in their lives. Our calendars get circled with "special days" while much of the in between time is simply crossed out, wasted, because we fail to see any significance in a normal day; we only mark time between events.

Fortunately, even our most normal days are often blessed with moments of such beauty and experiences of love and joy so rich that in spite of ourselves we are made aware of how precious a given day is. And certainly, when an illness or an accident or death suddenly tears the fabric of our life and leaves it changed forever, we are acutely conscious of how much we have taken for granted and how often we have failed to appreciate the gift of a healthy body, days free from trauma and filled with the presence of those we love.

M. J. Irion, in her "Prayer for Now", expresses it this way:

"Normal day, let me be aware of the treasure you are. Let me learn from you, love you, savor you, bless you before you depart. Let me not pass you by in quest of some rare and perfect tomorrow. Let me hold you while I may, for it will not always be so. One day I shall dig my nails into the earth, or bury my face in the pillow, or stretch myself taut, or raise my hands to the sky, and want more than all the world your return."

This is the day that the Lord has made, and it is good. Rejoice, and give thanks.

Amen



Members who joined Trinity in September were, from left, James and Katy Sue Brooks, with their sons Cal and Jay; Mary Byerman; and Bill Forbes.

Sunday School Notes

By Ben Warren
Sunday School Superintendent

The Teacher's Appreciation Dinner was a great success. On October 5, our church had a fine dinner honoring the teachers in our church and we had an excellent turn out. There was a concert presented by our junior choir with a sing-a-long time led by Cary Moon.

A button saying "Sunday School is important too" was presented to our teachers to provide added impetus to our 200th year celebration as a Sunday School. It's a time for Sunday School awareness and appreciation.

Thank you teachers for your loyalty and service to Trinity. Next month we will begin to introduce you to our honorable educators.

Walk-a-thon Results Told

Greetings!

Thanks to the hard work of the Tallahassee District pastors, the initial response to the Vashti Walk-a-thon was overwhelming.

The Tallahassee Walk-a-thon generated \$8,600 in pledges. The Jasper-Jennings-Madison Walk-a-thon raised an additional \$1,800 in pledges. The total amount pledged so far is more than double the amount collected in the 1979 Tallahassee District Walk-a-thon, and several churches have not yet held rock-a-thons and other fund raising events slated for later this month.

All churches participating in the Walk-a-thons (and alternative fund raising activities on Vashti's behalf) will be recognized at District Conference on November 23. Since this recognition will be based on the Florida Conference Treasurer's October computer printout, funds must be received by the Treasurer's office no later than October 31, for your congregation's labors to be saluted. As usual, checks should be made payable to the Florida Conference Treasurer, and the report form should be clearly marked "VASHTI WALK-A-THON" under the category, "NATIONAL ADVANCE SPECIALS."

Again, thank you for all your hard work. Please express our deep appreciation to the members of your church for their generous support of Vashti's ministry.

Cordially,
Alfred B. Vaught
District Superintendent
James R. Crook, Jr.
District Walk-a-thon Chairperson

Christian Education Comments

by John H. Green

Always In A Hurry?

In order to save time in a busy schedule not long ago I took an air-plane instead of a car. I was in a hurry. My schedule required that I be in three different places, several hundred miles apart, in the same day. This type of schedule is routine for many people. I am always busy but not always having to "hurry" as I did that particular day.

After reflecting on that day I found two problems. One is I don't like air-planes. Some people do and some people don't. I don't. This airplane happened to be a small, single-engine four seater with aluminum wings that looked as if a light wind would bend them. I slowly approached the plane, before the pilot arrived, to inspect it. The closer my approach the smaller the plane appeared. Although I had been assured that these little jewels have back-up systems I could not help but shiver when I saw the tiny exposed fan belt going to the propeller. It just didn't look very strong. This plane was small. How small was it? The stewardness was only four inches tall!

Actually the flight turned out to be better than I expected. Once in the air I felt a "little" safer. Only when another passenger asked the pilot if people bought twin-engine planes because twin-engine planes were safer, and the pilot answered "yes", did I become once again nauseated! Otherwise, the flight was pleasant.

My reflection of that day includes a second problem—hurrying. Hurry, hurry, hurry! Do you feel that time is

not passing but flying? Do you ever feel that you're doing more than the available 24 hours in a day? Are you always going to be in a hurry? How many times do you pray for aluminum wings to crowd a little more into the busy schedule?

If we are always in a hurry we might want to evaluate our lives with a few questions. Does increased mileage bring happiness? Does "faster" and "more" bring peace of mind? Is the "fast pace" always profitable? Are we larger because aluminum wings have made the world smaller? It could be a real Christian education experience to realize that aluminum wings have never transported anyone to the Kingdom and that "hurrying" is not the medicine that can heal a troubled heart.

Koinonia Sets Lessons

The Koinonia Sunday School Class cordially invites any interested adults to join us at 9:40 a.m. in the Gregory Room for coffee and our lesson. Up-coming speakers will be:

- November 2—Terry Broadway on "Holiday Depression";
- November 9—The Rev. Brent Byerman;
- November 16—Lyndon Burke Phi-fer on "Was Jesus a Pacifist?";
- November 23—A Thanksgiving topic;
- November 30 and December 7—Dr. David Levenson (FSU) on Judaism.

Byerman to Address UMW

Members of Trinity's United Metho-dist Women's unit will have an ex-cel-lent opportunity to become better acquainted with their newest Asso-ciate Minister, the Reverend Brent Byerman, and his wife, Mary, when they meet at the general session on Tuesday, November 4. Reverend Byerman will discuss his years of training, experiences that influenced his decision for the ministry, his hopes as an Associate Pastor of Trinity UMC, with special emphasis on the potential of the Youth Program under his guidance and leadership, and his aspirations and dreams for the future. Knowing more about the kinds of pro-grams Rev. Byerman plans to develop in the Church will enable UMW mem-bers to become better informed as to how they may support these programs in a beneficial way.

The regular November luncheon will precede the program, to be served at 12 noon. Hostesses will be members of Circle 8.

Earlier in the day, Tuesday, Novem-ber 4, the Executive Board of UMW will meet in the Conference room at 10:30 a.m.

The November calendar of Circle meetings follows:

- Circle 1—Monday, Nov. 10, 10:00 a.m. Home of Mrs. C. H. Coulter, 412 Ingleside Ave., phone 222-3309.
- Circle 2—Monday, Nov. 10, 2:30 p.m. Home of Mrs. Harold Yates, 1219 Camellia Dr., phone 877-3225. Mrs. A. H. Bryson co-hostess.
- Circle 3—Tuesday, Nov. 11, 10:00 a.m. Home of Mrs. Marie Bower, 561 E. Call St., phone 224-7920.
- Circle 4—Tuesday, Nov. 11, 10:00 a.m. Gregory Room (Trinity Hall). Presentation by Hollis O. Pemberton,

Jr., of slides of the Passion Play at Oberammergau, Germany. Circle 8 will join Circle 4 for this showing.

Circle 5—Tuesday, Nov. 11, 10:00 a.m. Home of Mrs. Theo Couch, 709 Piedmont Dr., phone 385-4174.

Circle 6—Tuesday, Nov. 11, 10:00 a.m., Home of Mrs. Allan C. Jackson, 2104 Lee Ave., phone 385-1325.

Circle 7—Tuesday, Nov. 11, 10:00 a.m. Home of Mrs. Wesley Harter, 515 North Ride, phone 385-8897. Mrs. Norman Leedham, co-hostess.

Circle 8—Tuesday, Nov. 11, 9:15 a.m. Business meeting in the Church Parlor with Mrs. Bruce Harter and Mrs. Enn Ots in charge. At 10:00 a.m. members will move to the Gregory Room, joining Circle 4 to view the slides of the Passion Play at Oberam-mergau, Germany, presented by Hollis O. Pemberton, Jr.

Circle 9—Tuesday, Nov. 11, 10:00 a.m. Home of Mrs. Odell Walby, 2303 Don Andres, phone 576-1641, Mrs. Julian Hamilton in charge of program.

Circle 10—Monday, Nov. 10, 3:30 p.m. Tallahassee Convalescent Home. Members of Circle 1 in charge of the program.

Circle 12—Monday, Nov. 17, 7:00 p.m. Meeting in Glenn C. James Chapel. Presentation by Hollis O. Pemberton, Jr., of slides of the Passion Play at Oberammergau, Germany.

Circle 13—Tuesday, Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m. Meeting at Georgia Bell Dickin-son Apartments, 301 E. Carolina St. Thanksgiving party for residents of Dickinson Apartments.

Anyone desiring to view the Passion Play slides on Tuesday, Nov. 11, 10:00 a.m., Gregory Room, or Monday, Nov. 17, 7:00 p.m., Glenn C. James Chapel, will be welcome.

1981 Proposed Budget
Trinity United Methodist Church

BENEVOLENCES AND CONFERENCE APPORTIONMENTS			Proposed 1981
Christian Service Fund	12,500		13,059
Ministerial Reserve Pension	16,405		18,125
World Service & Conf. Bene.	20,315		21,700
Ministerial Education Fund	2,850		3,119
District Church Extension	5,000		5,000
Black Colleges	890		964
District Christian Education	150		150
Wesley Foundation, FSU	1,000		800
District Work Fund	2,330		2,785
Conf. Adv. Spec. (Leon-Wakulla)	1,500		2,500
Missional Priorities	960		1,127
a. World Hunger			
b. Evangelism			
c. Ethnic Ministry			
Mass Communications	140		259
Gen. Juris. Adm. Fund	722		1,031
Lake Junaluska Development	1,106		1,106
Fl. Migrant Ministries	200		200
Community Service Programs	2,500		2,500
a. Terrell House	500		
b. Sal. Army	325		
c. CAPS	200		
d. Lcl. Emerg.	500		
e. Goodwill	250		
f. Sr. Citizens	625		
World Advance Special		1,000	1,000
Vera Hughlet			
National Advance Special		500	500
Tall. Dist. Supp. Fund		2,000	2,000
Spec. Resource Expenses		250	250
TOTAL BENEVOLENCES			\$73,175
SALARIES			
Pastor's Salary	25,700		25,700
Pastor's Util., Trvl. & Ins.	3,695		3,695
a. Util.	1,495		
b. Trvl.	1,200		
c. Ins.	600		
Assoc. Pastor's Salary	14,000		14,000
Assoc. Pastor's Util., Trvl. & Ins.	3,695		3,695
a. Util.	1,495		
b. Trvl.	1,200		
c. Ins.	600		
Assoc. Pastor's Salary	10,000		10,000
(11,500 Roughton)			
(8,928 Byerman)			
Assoc. Pastor's Util., Trvl. & Ins.	3,695		3,695
Additional salary expense as recommended by Pastor-Parish Relations Comm.			5,000
Church Accountant	13,900		13,900
Pastor's Secretary/Office Supervisor	8,500		9,200
Receptionist-Secretary	5,760		6,240
Asst. Church Accountant			1,944
Director of Music	5,200		5,600
Asst. Dir. of Music	3,800		4,100
Organist	4,000		4,320
Children's Choir Accompanist	300		300
Maintenance Supervisor			8,320
Custodian	19,000		7,862
Kitchen Hostess	1,000		1,000
Nursery Care	3,000		4,000
Social Security	4,300		4,400
Insurance-Pension Plan	4,300		4,300
Haywood Killings Pension	600		600
Additional Office/Custodial Services			1,000
TOTAL SALARIES			\$142,871
PROMOTION AND PROGRAM			
Leadership Training & Development	500		1,000
General Educ. Program	3,200		5,025
a. Recreation	800	1200	
b. Family Min.	975	1475	
c. Ch. Sch. Sup.	500	600	
d. Audio-Visuals	625	1500	
e. Lib. & Educ. Res.	300	800	
Church School Literature	2,800		2,800
Youth Ministry	2,650		2,650
Summer Youth Worker	1,600		1,600
Scout Charters	200		200
Kitchen Services	4,000		5,000
Chancel & Altar Supplies	500		500
Transportation	1,000		1,500
Evangelism	2,400		2,400
Music Supplies & Expenses	2,290		2,290
Finance Program			3,000
Conference Expense	450		600
TOTAL PROMOTION & PROGRAM			\$28,565
OFFICE			
Postage	3,200		3,400
Printing & Advertising	7,500		7,500
Supplies	3,500		3,500
Telephone	4,000		4,500
TOTAL OFFICE			\$18,900
PROPERTY			
Sanctuary Building Debt	37,000		21,700
Spence Ave. Debt	2,750		2,750
Live Oak Plant. Parsonage	1,500		12,875
Insurance	8,000		8,500
Maintenance Supplies	3,000		3,000
Utilities & Fuel	16,500		17,500
Repairs and Improvements	11,200		15,000
Furniture and Equipment	4,000		4,000
Piano and Organ Maint.	1,050		1,000
TOTAL ON PROPERTY			\$86,325
Miscellaneous	2,447		2,124
TOTAL BUDGET			\$351,960

DOES GOD LISTEN?

The following was recently reprinted in The Florida Times-Union and was written by Rabbi Howard R. Greenstein of Jacksonville's Congregation Ahavath Chesed for the temple's newsletter.

As many of you have already heard and mentioned, the current president of the Southern Baptist Convention recently stated that "God Almighty does not hear the prayers of a Jew." Those have been "fighting words" to almost every major American Jewish organization, and they have responded accordingly. Instead of repeating their denunciations, it occurred to me we might profit more from pondering the response those words might have evoked from "on high."

A matter as serious as this must have undoubtedly prompted the Heavenly Court to convene in formal session to examine the issue. The discussion might have proceeded in the following fashion with the Archangel Gabriel presiding:

Almighty: You'll excuse me, Gabriel, but I've been much too preoccupied with the callous disregard of my creatures for worldwide prospects for nuclear war. What else is so important that it requires this special session?

Gabriel: It seems, Sir, that the president of the Southern Baptist Association claims you don't hear the prayers of Jews.

Almighty: I know who the Jews are, but who are these Southern Baptists?

Gabriel: They are another company of believers in You, Sir.

Almighty: I see. How long have they been around?

Gabriel: I'm not certain, Sir, but I believe they have been active for a little more than a hundred years.

Almighty: And how long have the Jews been around?

Gabriel: Oh, Sir, they have been with You for almost 4,000 years.

Almighty: Of course. Aren't they the people with whom I made a special Covenant with their leader Moses at Mount Sinai?

Gabriel: Yes, Sir, that's correct.

Almighty: And didn't I tell them then that I would never depart from them or forsake them . . . ever!!!

Gabriel: Yes, Sir, you did.

Almighty: And didn't I also add that nothing should be changed in that Covenant?

Gabriel: Yes, Sir, You did.

Almighty: But these Baptists, they did change it, didn't they?

Gabriel: Yes, Sir, they did.

Almighty: If they think I don't hear the prayers of my Jewish people, how do they explain the survival of my people for 4,000 years?

Gabriel: They don't, Sir. They really prefer to avoid that subject.

Almighty: Aren't my Jewish people the same ones whose prophet told the world that "My House shall be a House of prayer for ALL peoples?"

Gabriel: Yes, Sir, they are.

Almighty: Were they not also the only ones to proclaim, "The righteous of ALL the world shall have a share in the world to come"?

Gabriel: Yes, Sir, they were.

Almighty: Seems to Me, then, if I wasn't hearing the prayers of Jews, I wouldn't be hearing the prayers of anybody else!

Gabriel: That's true, Sir.

Almighty: You know what, Gabriel? There is only one word for that kind of accusation against my people.

Gabriel: What is the word, Sir?

Almighty: CHUTZPAH!

Thank You . . .

Brady and I thank all of you for your calls, visits and prayers. We'll be returning to our regular pew as soon as possible.

Virginia and Brady Parrish

Bishop Hunt: About Pot-Bellied Stoves and Uncomfortable Pews

The following is reprinted from the Southeastern Jurisdiction United Methodist Reporter. Bishop Hunt is President of the Council of Bishops of that jurisdiction and this column is titled, "A Word from the President."

I remember the little country church in Greene County, Tennessee where I preached my first sermon after receiving my Local License as a college student. It was a frame building painted white, with a little steeple and a bell. Its dark pews were straight-backed and uncomfortable. There was a pot-bellied stove in one corner and a much-abused piano with a voice out of Tin Pan Alley in the other. The windows were a cheap variety of stained glass, and the hymnals had shaped notes. The choir was a group of men and women with more enthusiasm than musical talent. The congregation was made up of plain folk, most of them older, some shabbily dressed, and all bearing in their bodies the visible marks of hard and regular toil. It was summertime, and the profusion of new fans supplied by a nearby funeral home served as ready weapons against both heat and insects. I remember the pulpit Bible in particular because the page on which my text would have appeared had been torn out, and I was compelled to begin my message with an unsuccessful appeal to memory.

But I shall never forget the love and sympathy with which the people of this little rural church surrounded a visiting boy preacher. Gratitude warmed my heart and encouraged me to continue my plans for the ministry. I had a feeling that day, and I cherish it still, that the men and women, young people and children of that little congregation were for the most part earnestly seeking after God, willing to try to follow where He seemed to be leading. The great ideas of our religion appeared to be concepts with which they were both familiar and friendly: salvation, prayer, brotherhood, faith, Life Everlasting.

I have been privileged to preach in many churches in many different places during the long years since that far-away Sunday afternoon. However, I have never felt that my subsequent exposures to worship in cathedrals and chapels here and abroad brought me any nearer to the central reality of the Christian Church and its New Testament purposes than my experience in that little Greene County edifice. Here, in a setting of rustic provincialism, was the Kingdom of Christ in microcosm. These people sang their simple trust, made their offerings, tried to live their plain lives with allegiance to Christian principles, and remembered all the while—though most of them had never been graduated from high school—that the people of God have responsibility reaching literally around the world.

Perhaps this early impression helped to lead me into a lifelong conviction that the most important action in the Christian community always takes place in the Local Church—whether small or large. The entire structure, the total program, and all the professional personnel of United Methodism are designed to help the local congregation deepen its faith, discover its opportunities, and do its job.

Sometimes our ideas become too complex and sophisticated for our own good. We need to remind ourselves again and forcefully that the local church—your local church—is the dynamic center of everything meaningful and significant in the Southeastern Jurisdiction. We have had a year of great ecclesiastical conclaves, but we need to remember that every issue interpreted and decided by the General Conference in Indianapolis and the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference at Lake Junaluska should be measured ultimately in terms of its effect upon the spiritual growth and mission of local congregations throughout our Connection. This, indeed, is where the action really is.

I thank God for my memory of that little church in Green County and the people who wanted to encourage and help a boy trying to say a good word for Jesus Christ. It has helped me again and yet again to know what is really important!

HEO Office Hours

The HEO office hours are 9 am until 1 pm, Monday through Friday. If you have a need or know of someone with a special need call the HEO office and ask for Lori Steinmeyer. Any volunteered services for HEO are welcome also.

Correction . . .

In last month's issue of the Tidings, the picture on the front page was the house which is used for the Matthew 25 prisoner project. It was not identified as such.

My Pilgrimage . . .

By Brent Byerman

I believe in the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

We often say the above words in worship as we confess together The Apostles' Creed. However, I seem to hear little said today in the Methodist Church about "life after death." Maybe this is because as it is such a difficult concept, it is difficult to know what to say about it. Or, maybe we are hesitant to bring it up because at times in Church history it became the dominating sermon theme overshadowing the reality that "eternal life" begins in this lifetime. A third factor may be that in this scientific age where proof is sought for all conclusions, many within the Church may question whether life after death is for real or not.

With the improvement of health care, people live longer today and therefore, the issue of death is not as pertinent to the majority of the population as it once was. Also, since the establishment of medical institutions such as, hospitals and nursing homes, most of society is relatively isolated from death on a daily basis. However, even in the midst of longer life spans and the institutionalization of the sick and dying, we cannot escape from asking the ultimate question; Do we believe that there is life after death? Our answer to the question of death very definitely affects our answer to the question of life.

At the heart of the Christian Gospel is God's answer to the question of death. That is, on the third day Jesus Christ rose from the dead! Our belief in this reality does not take away the pain of separation death brings into our lives but it does give us confidence that God's ultimate plan for us and His entire creation will prevail. A funeral service should be both a time of grief and a time of worship. . . .

. . . For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation WILL BE ABLE TO SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD. (Romans 8:38-39)

In Him,

Brent

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